Benefits of mine and beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh

1517. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry have decided that all mine and beedi workers, who are drawing emoluments upto Rs. 1600/-per month, will be eligible to get benefits under different schemes being implemented by tie Central Government in respect of mica mine workers, iron-ore/manganese ore/chrome ore mine workers, lime stone and dolomite mine workers in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details of various schemes to be implemented for beedi and mine workers in Andhra Pradesh and the number of beedi workers and mine workers to be benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The beedi and mine workers are entitled to provision of medical, housing, educational and recreational facilities. Water supply schemes are executed for the benefit of mine workers by the Mine Managements with assistance from the Labour Welfare Funds. There are about 2.5 lakh beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh. Information about the number of miners in Andhra Pradesh is not maintained by the Labour Ministry.

E.S.I dispensaries and housing assistance workers in Andhra Pradesh

1518. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up twelve additional ESI dispensaries and five hundred houses for beedi/mine workers in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and the centres selected for the establishment of the dispensaries and construction of houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY- OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). There is no proposal for constructing 12 additional E.S.I, dispensaries. Housing assistance from Welfare Funds is sanctioned for Beedi workers and certain categories of miners. Proposals are considered as and when they are received. So far, 1664 houses for beedi/mine workers of the districts of Nellore, Bellary, Karimnagar, Kurnool, Guntur and Mahabubnagar have been sanctioned.

Central assistance for ESI hospitals in A.P.

1519. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has approved an amount of Rs. 2.5 crore for the construction of hostel and new ESI hospitals and renovation of cxialing hospitals in" Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme and if not, what are the reasons therefor?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The ESI authorities have reported that they have not so far received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Padesh for construction of a new hospital, hostel and renovation of existing hospitals in the State.

(b) Does not arise.

Countries importing tobacco from India

1520. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to. state :

(a) what are the names of the countries which are the main purchasers of Indian tobacco;

(b) what is the quantity of tobacco exported to these countries during the last three years from Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that some tobacco companies in Andhra Pradesh exported poor quality of tobacco *to* China and other countries, which resulted in a bad name and reputation to Indian tobacco industry; and